

**MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

**Institution:** Montana State University – Bozeman

**Program Title:** Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate Program

1. How does this program advance the campus' academic mission and fit priorities?

This Certificate Program will introduce MSU—Bozeman's excellent array of science courses to a national audience of health professions advisors and graduates of four-year colleges. It should be noted that no such post-baccalaureate certificate program currently exists at any public university in the Northwest. As the program will be advertised to pre-medical advisors all over the country, it is expected that the MSU "Five Year Outlook" goal of attracting more non-residents to the campus will receive a modest boost through this certificate program.

The campus will also benefit from the programming that will be developed to provide an "extracurricular" element to the certificate program. An attraction of this program to potential applicants is that the Director of Health Professions Advising will be developing additional lectures and special events that expose these nascent doctors and dentists to their respective professions; these events will be open to other MSU students. She will also be developing physician shadowing and other experiential opportunities in the larger Bozeman community for these post-baccalaureate students of which current pre-medical and pre-dental student may also avail themselves. These efforts fulfill aspirations espoused in MSU—Bozeman's Five Year Vision Document to increase campus-community "strategic partnerships."

2. How does this program fit the Board of Regents' goals and objectives?

The Board of Regents is committed to offering "programs and services consistent with the changing market and employment needs of the state and nation." A certificate program in the pre-medical sciences would bring more aspiring health professionals to a state in desperate need of doctors and dentists in its rural areas. While it is hoped that many of these certificate holders will return to Montana to practice after they have earned their professional degrees, the program will also ensure that well-trained physicians and doctors across the country will have been launched in their careers from Montana.

Another goal of the Board of Regents is to "promote the full spectrum of higher education needs and opportunities in 2-year, 4-year, graduate, and professional education." There is a market for such a certificate program. While a large number of such post-baccalaureate programs exist in the East, there is no such certificate program at a public university in any Northwest state. Thus, this certificate program would fill a gap in the means by which students in Montana, the Northwest, and indeed, across the country can prepare themselves for medical or dental school. As people move fluidly in and out of careers now, it is important that those who wish to tackle an emotionally and financially draining endeavor such as medical school be offered the best possible preparation. MSU can provide that preparation through this certificate program.

3. How does this program support or advance Montana's needs and interests?

It is very much in Montana's interest to attract students to MSU who want to pursue well-regarded professional careers such as medicine and dentistry. Whether they be current Montana residents or not, the holders of this certificate will invariably feel some loyalty to the institution, and by extension, to the State that launched them into these professional schools. It is hoped that many of those who obtain the certificate will return to practice their professions in Montana. This certificate program, then, fits well the

Mission Goal of MSU to "serve the people and communities of Montana by sharing our expertise and collaborating with others to improve the lives and prosperity of Montanans."

4. How will this program contribute to economic development in Montana? (Note projected annual economic impact both regionally and statewide.)

In the short term, the tuition dollars provided by these new students will benefit both MSU and the surrounding community. In the long term, a benefit will accrue to the State when some of these medical and dental graduates locate their professional practices here.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

• Break-even point?	1	FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	10	
• Graduates / year?	10	
• MT jobs / year?	0	

6. Resource Allocation:

• Total program budget?	\$ 11,000
• Faculty FTE?	0
• Staff FTE?	.375

7. Does this program require new resources?  Yes  No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

8. How will the campus fund the program?

No extra faculty resources will be needed. It has been confirmed through the department chairs that all of the departments teaching the requisite courses can absorb these ten to twenty extra students. As the program grows, the Director of Health Professions Advising, who now works twenty hours per week, would need to increase her hours by four to six hours a week to accommodate the administration and advising inherent in this program (an increase of 0.125 FTE). At full capacity, it is estimated that an additional 0.25 FTE classified support would also be required. Some initial resources would be invested in advertising the certificate program, but these are comparable to what is already invested in advertising pre-medical courses to prospective students.

The additional direct costs of offering the program will be covered by enrolling a single non-resident student. Only a small fraction of anticipated new revenue would need to be directed in support of the program.

9. If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources.

The low incremental start-up costs necessary to begin this program do not require significant reallocation.